IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, with the following paragraph:

This object is inventively achieved in accordance with the present invention in a switching device for parallel connection of a number of subscriber terminal devices, ~~said~~ the switching device ~~comprising: an insert unit~~ including a plug-in module for providing a number of subscriber interfaces each connected to one of ~~said~~ the subscriber terminal devices[[;]] and a control unit. The control unit has[[:]] a central control unit for controlling central switching events in ~~said~~ the switching device[[;]] and a peripheral control unit for controlling linking of ~~said number of~~ the subscriber interfaces to ~~said~~ the subscriber terminal devices. The peripheral control unit has[[:]] an interface driver for controlling at least two of ~~said~~ the subscriber interfaces, ~~said~~ the interface driver having[[:]] a principal or master subscriber control for controlling a principal subscriber terminal device; at least one subsidiary or slave subscriber control for controlling at least one subsidiary subscriber terminal device; a central driver control for central controlling of administration events in ~~said~~ the interface driver; a first connection device for physically connecting ~~said~~ the principal (master) subscriber control and ~~said~~ the at least one subsidiary (slave) subscriber control; and a second connection device for logically connecting ~~said~~ the principal (master) subscriber control to ~~said~~ the at least one subsidiary (slave) subscriber control.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following paragraph:

An interface driver for driving the subscriber interfaces that is present in the peripheral control unit of the switching device thereby has a principal (master) subscriber control for controlling a principal subscriber terminal device as well as at least one subsidiary (slave) subscriber control for controlling at least one subsidiary subscriber terminal device. A first connection ~~means~~ connects the principal (master) subscriber control to the at least one subsidiary (slave) subscriber control, as a result whereof all subscriber terminal devices connected in parallel can be reached under the same telephone number and an incoming call is simultaneously signaled at all subscriber terminal devices. Over and above this, a connection is

through-connected to the subscriber terminal device that accepts the incoming call. Further, the subscriber terminal devices connected in parallel always occupy the same line, i.e., the line of the principal (master) subscriber control, as a result whereof the telephone number of the principal subscriber terminal device always appears in the display at the called party, even when the call was actuated from a subsidiary subscriber terminal device.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 24, with the following paragraph:

Further, the interface driver has a second connection means that logically connected connects the principal (master) subscriber control to the at least one subsidiary subscriber control. In this way, complex telecommunication performance features of the switching device are processed in parallel for both subscriber terminal devices in addition to the connection control. Stated in more precise terms, a modification of a predetermined performance feature at a subscriber terminal device is simultaneously implemented at all other subscriber devices connected in parallel. The user comfort is thereby extraordinarily improved.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, with the following paragraph:

For connection of the various subscriber terminal devices, the private branch exchange 1 has an insert unit a plug-in module 4 with a number of subscriber interfaces A, B, and M. The subscriber interfaces A, B and M thereby serve for the connection of the illustrated subscriber terminal devices as well as base stations MB for cordless telephones (DECT telephones). Such subscriber interfaces, however, can also serve for the connection of lines to a public exchange and/or for networking[[s]].

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, with the following paragraph:

For controlling and initializing general procedures, the switching device 1 has an operating unit 2 that, as operating technology, coordinates, for example, the allocation of the various subscriber interfaces in the an insert unit plug-in module 4, implements an initialization of

the various blocks, serves for input and programming, and also implements a central administration of general data such as, for example, date and time of day.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, with the following paragraph:

Figure 2 shows a schematic block circuit diagram of the inventive interface driver 9 upon setup of an internal connection between the cordless subscriber terminal device MT and the wire-bound subscriber terminal device TEC. The reference character C thereby again indicates the subscriber interface or the ~~insert~~ plug-in module for a digital system subscriber. The reference character M references the subscriber interface or the ~~insert~~ plug-in module for a mobile subscriber. According to Figure 1, the mobile subscriber is a matter of a base station MB with the pertaining cordless telephone MT. The interface driver 9, in Figure 2, ~~comprises~~ includes a principal subscriber control (master) and a subsidiary subscriber control (slave) that are allocated to the respective subscriber interfaces C and M. The interface driver 9 according to Figure 2 thus enables the parallel connection of the wire-bound subscriber terminal device TEC with the cordless subscriber terminal device MT. According to Figure 2, the principal subscriber control is composed of a principal line process unit (LTG process) 12C, a principal connection process unit (VEB process) 14C, a principal terminal device process unit (END process) 11 C, and a principal key converter process unit (TAK process) 15. In a similar way, the subsidiary subscriber control is composed of a subsidiary line process unit (LTG process) 12M, a subsidiary connection process unit (VEB process) 14M, a subsidiary terminal device process unit (END process) 11 M, and a subsidiary key converter process unit (TIC process) 16.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, with the following paragraph:

For physical connection of the principal (master) subscriber control to the subsidiary (slave) subscriber control, the inventive interface driver 9 has an internal connection process unit 13 that connects the connection process units 14C and 14M of the principal and subsidiary subscriber control to one another. In a similar way, the interface driver 9 has a message interface 17 - as second connection device - that logically connects the terminal device process units 11C and 11M of the principal and subsidiary subscriber control to one another. Stated

more precisely, the logical messages between the principal (master) subscriber control and the subsidiary (slave) subscriber control are transmitted via this message interface 17, as a result whereof a synchronization of telecommunications performance features can be realized.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 26, with the following paragraph:

Figure 3 ~~thereby~~ shows a schematic block circuit diagram of the inventive interface driver 9 in the connection-oriented parallel connection of the principal and subsidiary (master and slave) subscriber control. In Figure 3, identical reference characters reference the same process units or components as in Figure 2, for which reason a more detailed description is foregone below.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 24, with the following paragraph:

Figure 4 shows a schematic block circuit diagram of the inventive interface driver 9 given the synchronization of an internal telecommunication performance feature. According to Figure 4, a synchronization of performance features fundamentally ensues via the terminal device process units 11C and 11M of the subscriber terminal devices connected in parallel or the principal and subsidiary (master and slave) subscriber control pertaining thereto. The terminal device process units 11C and 11M are thereby logically connected to one another via the message interface 17. In the initialization phase (run-up) of the subscriber terminal devices connected in parallel, the information is thereby stored in the terminal device process units 11C and 11M such that it is respectively a matter of a principal terminal device process unit and a subsidiary terminal device process unit (TWIN Partners), as a result whereof a hierarchic order is defined. Further, addressing information is deposited during the initialization, this being needed in order to address the respective terminal device process unit of the pertaining subscriber device (connected in parallel).